

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
- Young Bible Scholars – To Be Announced
- Lady’s Bible Classes at YMCA – To be announced.
- Sunday and Wednesday Lessons are being recorded
- Second Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study – 3:30 p.m.
- Third Sunday – Trinity Care Home Service - 1:30 p.m.
- Fourth Sunday Song Service following 10:00 a.m. sermon
- Our Fall Gospel Meeting is October 29 – November 3.

News and Notes

- **Prayer Requests:** Patsy Chunn, Jim Ratcliff, Wade McCrary, Doug Wheeler, Mike and Marion Butler, Lee Gallop, the Andy Elliott Family, and Benny Parker. Cindy Nutt requests our prayers for her grandchildren and family. Ellen and Dylan Haas ask for prayers for their family. Prayers are requested for John Lavender, Mike and Marilyn’s son John has kidney and heart disease issues.
Sick: Mike Lavender is recovering from heart failure on July 26. Patsy Chunn is taking cancer medications. Rebecca Powell is dealing with rheumatoid arthritis complications. Andy Elliott will have eye surgery in November. Andy also recently suffered back and rotator cuff injuries at work. Jim Ratcliff continues to battle health issues.

Contact Information:

East Columbus church of Christ,
811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702

Minister – Darrell Powell

Website: eastcolumbuschurch.org

Facebook: East Columbus church of Christ

Editor - Ed Williams at 662.323.9502 or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com.

Vol.10 No.10. October 1, 2023



East Columbus Bulletin

Our Gospel Meeting

East Columbus church of Christ is conducting our fall Gospel Meeting October 29 – November 3, 2023. Mike Pittman of Russellville, Arkansas will be speaking that week. Our schedule will include lessons at 9:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. evening lessons Monday through Friday and morning classes at 10:30 on Tuesday and Thursday of that week.

What can you and I do to prepare for this meeting?

1. Pray for Mike Pittman as he prepares the lessons for the week that the message will be from God’s word and that they will be the ones we most need to hear. We can also pray for his safety in traveling and pray for his family to be safe and well during his absence.
2. We can pray for ourselves to be ready to receive the Word with all readiness.
3. We can pray for the safety of our visitors and family that we will be safe in the week of extra traveling.
4. We can pray that those attending will be edified, and that God will be glorified in all the services.
5. We can pray that we will receive our visitors with kindness and encouragement.
6. We can encourage one another by being determined to attend every service and support our own gospel meeting.
7. We can invite area congregations to attend.
8. We can invite our neighbors and friends to attend.
9. We can thank God for spiritual growth opportunities like this.

Obeying the Gospel Means Trusting in Christ

“. . . that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:12,13 NKJV).

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE ACT OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN IS DESCRIBED IN SEVERAL WAYS, EACH OF THEM INSTRUCTIVE. One of these is “trusting (or hoping) in Christ.” In the NKJV, Paul spoke of the Jews as those “who first trusted in Christ,” and then he said that Gentiles in places like Ephesus had “also trusted.” For today’s meditation, let’s think about what it means to trust in Christ.

If you compare several translations of v.12, you will notice that many render the verb not as “trusted” but as “hoped.” But while the literal meaning of the Greek verb is to “hope before” or to “be the first to hope,” the ideas of hope and trust are so intertwined that “trusted in Christ” is not a bad translation.

Faith, trust, and hope all have to do with intangible (“unseen”) realities, usually because these are in the future. Based on evidence, we believe that certain things are true and that certain things are going to happen. Belief engenders trust, and trust is the thing that makes hope possible. Faith is, as the Hebrew writer described it, “the assurance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1).

There is no better example of faith than Abraham. “Under utterly hopeless circumstances he hopefully believed . . . being absolutely certain that whatever promise [God] is bound by He is able also to make good” (Romans 4:18–21 Weymouth). So today, when we obey the gospel we trust in Christ. Believing God’s promise of salvation, we stake our lives on the reality of the promise.

If you’re like me, you may have found that trusting Christ is an ongoing work. Yes, we know that Christ has proven His trustworthiness. And yes, when we were baptized we made a commitment to trust Him. But life wears us down, and our trust runs low. So we have to go back, remember the foundations of our faith, and remake our commitment to trust Him. As life unfolds, our decision to trust has to be repeated frequently and fervently. That’s not a lack of faith — it’s how serious commitments always work.

“Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done” (C. S. Lewis).

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com

1 Kings 8:22-53 – A Prayer of God’s Otherness

No single verse contains all of God. No single scripture contains all of God’s theology. If this is true, then even “God is love” (1 John 4:8) is not all inclusive of all God is. God is not only love. God is righteous too, which can conflict with His desire that all men be saved (1 Tim.2:3-4). Therefore when we isolate one characteristic of God, or one doctrine, we are too narrow in our own minds and in our theology. How God’s love and righteousness co-exists is beyond us. Sometimes we need to throw up our hands, not out of despair, but out of praise of God’s transcendent immanence or if you prefer, God’s immanent transcendence. God does not always fit into our box, or into our linear thinking. God does not contradict, but God is a paradox. But even that one thought, God is a paradox, does not contain all of God’s theology. No single verse contains all of God.

No single prayer contains all of God either, but one comes closer than most – Solomon’s dedication prayer (1 Kings 8:22-53). Such a prayer comes only from having a deep appreciation of God’s “Otherness.” God is “other” than us, and so different. After reading this brief overview, take the time to read and digest the entire prayer.

- Yahweh is Unique – “There is no God like You” (8.23)
- Yahweh is Relational – “Keeping the gracious covenant with Your servants who walk before You” (8.23)
- Yahweh is Faithful – “You have kept what You promised” (8.24)
- Yahweh is Transcendent – “Even heaven, the highest heaven cannot contain You” (8.27)
- Yahweh is Immanent – “Hear the cry and the prayer that Your servant prays before You today” (8.28)
- Yahweh is Protective – “So that Your eyes may watch over this temple night and day” (8.29)
- Yahweh is Forgiving – “May You hear and forgive” (8.30)
- Yahweh is Pure – “May You judge Your servants, condemning the wicked man” (8.32)
- Yahweh is Righteous – “Providing justice for the righteous” (8.32)
- Yahweh is Nature’s God – “May you send rain on Your land” (8.36)
- Yahweh is a Giver – “You gave Your people for an inheritance” (8.36)
- Yahweh is Omniscient – “You alone know every human heart” (8:39)
- Yahweh is Reverent – “So that they may fear You” (8.40)
- Yahweh is Universal – “Even for the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel” (8.41)

Prayer Challenge: There’s more to Solomon’s prayer than space allows, so study it with the goal of studying God. Then allow God’s “Otherness” to fill your prayer with praise.

-- Perry Hall